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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/500,195	06/24/2004	John Baird	865-007us	9186

39600 7590 12/19/2007
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317 MADISON AVENUE, SUITE 910
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EXAMINER

CHENG, PETER L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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12/19/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/500,195

Applicant(s)

BAIRD ET AL.

Examiner

Peter L. Cheng

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :7/15/2004, 8/15/2005, 8/14/2006, 11/20/2006.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Per the specification on **page 11, lines 7 – 8, Figure 29** should be designated by a legend such as **--Prior Art--** because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to because:

- **Fig. 2:** the label **Processors(3) 3305** is minimally legible; also, lines drawn to each of the "processors" are minimally legible; per the specification (**page 15, lines 7 - 10**), it is assumed that lines are drawn to each of modules 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360 and 3370;
- **Fig. 2:** the label **Unique Attribute Data Module 3410** is minimally legible;

- **Fig. 2:** there appears to be a duplicate copy of this figure;
- **Fig. 11:** the text in the topmost row of the table “wraps”; for example, **MemberId** appears as **MemberI** (on a first line) and **d** (on a second line); similarly, for **FaxRoutingInfoId**, **FaxNumber**, **CustomerId**, **DepartmentId**, and **Description**;
- **Fig. 13:** the text in the topmost row of the table “wraps”; for example, **CustomerId** appears as **CustomerI** (on a first line) and **d** (on a second line); similarly, for **SessionTimeout**;
- **Fig. 20:** step number 600 (arrived at by a **Success** result at step **520** followed by a **Yes** result for step labeled **Administrator**) is not mentioned in the specification;
- **Fig. 20:** step number 800 (“User Settings”) is not mentioned in the specification;
- **Fig. 20:** step number 910 (“Display Unique Case & Associated Fax Pages”) is not mentioned in the specification;

also, the vertical line which emanates from this step and connects to steps

915, 920 and 925 appears to originate from "within step 910" and partially obscures the label **910**;

- **Fig. 20:** step number **1000** ("Logout") is not mentioned in the specification;
- **Fig. 20:** the vertical line which emanates from step **730** and *currently* connects to step **735** appears incorrect per the specification on **page 36, lines 23 – 24**; accordingly, step **730** should connect to step **720**;
- **Figs. 21 - 28:** the text in each screenshot is minimally legible; suggest enlarging each figure to fill a single page;
- **Figs. 29, 30:** step number **11120** ("Procedure Scheduling") is not mentioned in the specification;

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes

made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: "COMPUTERIZED PROCESSES AND APPARATUS FOR FAX DOCUMENT STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SERVING A COMMUNITY OF DIGITAL USERS", or similar wording.

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- There are some typographical and grammatical errors in the disclosure; for example, **page 2, paragraph 0001, line 4** (of the amended specification) (change "Community if Digital ..." to "Community of Digital ..."); **page 29, line**

3 (change “which is uniquely” to “which uniquely”); **page 30, line 11** (change “is identifies a row” to “identifies a row”); **page 32, line 7** (change “medial” to “medical”); **page 32, line 11** (change “PSTN 2000” to “PSTN 1000”); **page 33, line 1** (suggest adding “with which” after “use the fax number”); **page 33, line 21** (change “like” to “the like”); **page 39, line 11** (suggest removing “(I)” since not cited elsewhere); **page 39, line 13** (remove extra parentheses after “etc.”); **page 44, line 23** (change “locate patient” to “locate a patient”);

- **Page 10, line 16:** it is assumed that applicant intended to cite a **found unique** instead of a *sound unique*;
- **Page 18, line 19:** it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **with reference to Figure 11** instead of **with reference to 11**;
- **Page 28, line 11:** for clarity, regarding **Customer table 3472**, suggest adding reference to **Figure 13**; for example, **Customer table 3472 as shown in Figure 13 ...**;
- **Page 29, line 2:** for clarity, regarding **User table 3452**, suggest adding reference to **Figure 14**; for example, **User table 3452 as shown in Figure 14 ...**;

- **Page 29, line 18:** for clarity, regarding **AuditAction table 3442**, suggest adding reference to **Figure 15-A**; for example, **AuditAction table 3442 as shown in Figure 15-A ...**;
- **Page 30, line 7:** for clarity, regarding **AuditLog table 3444**, suggest adding reference to **Figure 15-B**; for example, **AuditLog table 3444 as shown in Figure 15-B ...**;
- **Page 30, line 17:** for clarity, regarding **AuditDetailsChar table 3446**, suggest adding reference to **Figure 15-C**; for example, **AuditDetailsChar table 3446 as shown in Figure 15-C ...**;
- **Page 30, line 17:** for clarity, regarding **AuditDetailsNum table 3448**, suggest adding reference to **Figure 15-D**; for example, **AuditDetailsNum table 3448 as shown in Figure 15-D ...**;
- **Page 31, line 14:** for clarity, regarding **UniqueAttrSet1 table 3420**, suggest adding reference to **Figure 16**; for example, **UniqueAttrSet1 table 3420 as shown in Figure 16 ...**;
- **Page 32, line 1:** for clarity, regarding **UniqueAttrSet2 table 3430**, suggest adding reference to **Figure 17**; for example, **UniqueAttrSet2 table 3430 as**

shown in Figure 17 ...;

- **Page 46, line 18:** it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **Fig. 29** instead of **Fig. 19**;

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - **Line 1:** it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **receive** instead of **receives**;
6. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - **Line 1:** it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **claim 9** instead of **claim9**;
 - **Line 1:** it is not clear whether **said identification** refers to the **identity** of "each of said entities", "their department" or a particular "member", or any combination of these three; for the purpose of claim interpretation, it will be assumed that **said identification** refers to at least one of the three;

7. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - **Line 2:** it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **manager** instead of **manger**;
8. Claim 19 – 24 and 26 – 31 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - **Line 1:** it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **further comprising a step of** instead of **further comprising the step of**;
9. Claim 26 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - **Line 5:** “said second fax document” lacks antecedent basis; assume applicant intended to cite “said additional fax document”;
10. Claim 27 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - **Line 3:** it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **any one of** instead of **anyone of**;
11. Claim 28 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - **Line 1:** it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **in accordance with claim 26 further** instead of **in accordance with claim further**;

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

13. Claims 1 – 11 and 14 - 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **BOBO [US Patent 5,870,549]**.

As for claim 1, BOBO teaches a fax storage and retrieval system comprising:

a fax receiving module configured to receive a plurality of facsimile documents from a plurality of fax devices

[Fig. 13 “central processor” 3; “The central processor 3 receives the calls on the DID trunks 15 and stores the messages in storage 11 in accordance with software 7”; col. 16, lines 57 - 59];

a document attribute module configured to allow a user to associate each incoming fax document to a unique attribute set

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG.

17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

BOBO further cites other "attributes", as shown in **Fig. 17**, as "document type", "date", "time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document number", and "other fields" **309.**

BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 - 24];**

a fax page splitter module configured to split images of each of said facsimile documents to individual image pages

[With regards to **Fig. 2**, BOBO teaches "when a facsimile message is received, the MSDS 10, at step 54, will update the total listing of all messages to indicate the newly received message and may additionally generate HTML files for the newly received facsimile message according to the user's preferences. When the user later requests information on the message at step 76, the HTML information has already been generated and the MSDS 10 may directly send the requested information to the user at step 80"; **col. 9, lines 36 – 44**.

BOBO later refers to this mode of operation as a "synchronous mode of communication" (**col. 19, lines 18 – 28**) and cites, "When a request for information is then later received by the HTTPD 37, the information has already been generated and the HTTPD 37 only needs to retrieve the information from storage 11 and transmit the information to the user's computer 32"; **col. 19, lines 22 – 27**.

A "fax page splitting" process is shown in **Fig. 6** in which a facsimile message is converted into HTML files. "With reference to FIG. 6, when the facsimile message is received, the message is in a Tagged Image File Format/Facsimile (TIFF/F) and each page of the facsimile message is split into a separate file. Each page of the facsimile message is then converted from the TIFF/F format

into a Portable Pixel Map (PPM) format. The PPM files are next converted into separate Graphic Interchange Format (GIF) files and then into separate HTML files. Thus, each page of the facsimile message is converted into a separate HTML file"; **col. 12, lines 9 – 18**. Furthermore, "each page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of '.TIFF', '.PPM', '.GIF' or '.HTML' according to the format of the particular file"; **col. 12, lines 40 - 44**;

and a document storage and retrieval system coupled to said fax receiving module and configured to store each of said pages of said plurality of facsimile documents such that each of said pages is individually retrievable

[As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each page of the facsimile message.

BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 – 36**. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43**].

Regarding claim 2, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 1 further comprising

**a fax routing module coupled to said fax receiving module,
said fax routing module configured to assign fax numbers for an entity
intending to receive said plurality of fax documents**

[An MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System) is shown in **Fig. 13**. BOBO teaches that the MSDS associates a fax telephone number and e-mail address for each "user".

With reference to **Fig. 1**, "with each call on the DID trunk 15, an address signal indicating the telephone number being called is provided to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 18 – 20.**

With reference to **Fig. 2**, "a telephone call directed to a number serviced by the MSDS 10 is initiated at step 40 by a third party, for instance, through the facsimile machine 24"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 56.** "At step 42, the address signal associated with the initiated call is routed through the central office 20, over the DID trunk 15, and to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 59 -61.** "The intended recipient of the message uses the services provided by the MSDS 10 and will hereinafter be referred to as a user"; **col. 8, lines 5 – 7.**

Therefore, BOBO teaches that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a “user” (i.e., an “entity”)].

Regarding claim 3, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 2 wherein

said fax routing module is further configured to assign fax numbers to individual departments within said entity

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an “entity”) may be a particular user or a group of users, and cites, “According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users”; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

With respect to **Fig. 17** and the “other fields” **309** of a “data entry” **300**, BOBO later teaches that the “other fields 309 may also be used by a user to customize the MSDS 10 according to his or her own desires. For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed”; **col. 24, lines 18 – 22.** BOBO gives examples of individual departments as “marketing”, “sales”, “engineering” and “legal”].

Regarding claim 4, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 2, wherein

said fax routing module is further configured to assign fax numbers to individual personnel within said entity

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a group of users, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users"; col. 23, lines 10 – 12].

Regarding claim 5, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 2 further comprising

a fax routing data module coupled to said fax routing module configured to store said assignment of fax numbers for each entity, along with a predetermined email address,

so that faxes transmitted to a particular fax number are routed to a corresponding email address as specified in said fax routing data module

[With reference to **Fig. 3**, BOBO further teaches that "once connected with the Internet 30, at step 62, the user accesses with a hyper-text browser the Universal Resource Locator (URL) associated with his or her MSDS 10 mailbox"; col. 8, lines 21 – 23. After supplying "his or her ID and password at step 68 and, if found valid at step 70, the MSDS 10 provides the computer 32 with access to the mailbox at step 72"; col. 8, lines 28 – 31. "The user is also preferably given the option at this step to change account information. The account information might

include the E-mail address for the user, the manner in which messages are to be reviewed, the user's pager information, as well as other user preferences"; **col. 8, line 64 – col. 9, line 1.**

Therefore, in addition to teaching that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a "user" (i.e., an "entity"), BOBO also teaches that the MSDS assigns an e-mail address to a "user".

"After the user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10. The MSDS 10 receives the request at step 76 and, at step 78, determines whether the information exists"; **col. 8, lines 34 – 37.** "If the requested information is available, then at step 80 the information is transmitted through the Internet 30 to the user's computer 32"; **col. 8, lines 46 – 48.**

Therefore, faxes intended for a particular fax number are routed to a corresponding email address as maintained by the MSDS in an "account information" storage].

Regarding claim 6, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 5 wherein

said fax routing data module is further configured to store department identification code field for each entity identifying the departments intended to receive said fax

[As previously noted in regards to the "other fields" 309 shown in Fig. 17, BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 - 24**],

along with member identification code field for each department identifying the members intended to receive said fax

[With regards to Fig. 17, BOBO also teaches that the "data field" 300 may "comprise field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message" and that "the person may be identified in numerous ways, such as by a portion of the person's name or by a unique number"; **col. 23, lines 45 – 49**.

Therefore, BOBO teaches that both department and individual member identification may be included as routing information for a message].

Regarding claim 7, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 6 further comprising

a document presentation manager configured to retrieve received faxes in accordance with predetermined attributes

[BOBO teaches that the MSDS provides a "document presentation" means as shown in **Fig. 7**. This figure shows a sample display of the first page of a facsimile message or document. The corresponding HTML code which references the ".GIF" image file (of the first page) is cited on **col. 13, lines 24 - 60**].

As for claim 8, BOBO teaches a fax storage and retrieval system configured to receives facsimile documents for a plurality of independent entities, said system comprising:

a fax receiving module configured to receive images corresponding to said facsimile documents

[**Fig. 13** "central processor" **3**; "The central processor 3 receives the calls on the DID trunks 15 and stores the messages in storage 11 in accordance with software 7"; **col. 16, lines 57 - 59**];

a page splitter unit coupled to said fax receiving module configured to organize said images of said facsimile documents such that images of each page in said facsimile documents are separately identifiable and retrievable

[With regards to **Fig. 2**, BOBO teaches "when a facsimile message is received, the MSDS 10, at step 54, will update the total listing of all messages to indicate

the newly received message and may additionally generate HTML files for the newly received facsimile message according to the user's preferences. When the user later requests information on the message at step 76, the HTML information has already been generated and the MSDS 10 may directly send the requested information to the user at step 80"; **col. 9, lines 36 – 44.**

BOBO later refers to this mode of operation as a "synchronous mode of communication" (**col. 19, lines 18 – 28**) and cites, "When a request for information is then later received by the HTTPD 37, the information has already been generated and the HTTPD 37 only needs to retrieve the information from storage 11 and transmit the information to the user's computer 32"; **col. 19, lines 22 – 27.**

A "fax page splitting" process is shown in **Fig. 6** in which a facsimile message is converted into HTML files. "With reference to FIG. 6, when the facsimile message is received, the message is in a Tagged Image File Format/Facsimile (TIFF/F) and each page of the facsimile message is split into a separate file. Each page of the facsimile message is then converted from the TIFF/F format into a Portable Pixel Map (PPM) format. The PPM files are next converted into separate Graphic Interchange Format (GIF) files and then into separate HTML files. Thus, each page of the facsimile message is converted into a separate HTML file"; **col. 12, lines 9 – 18.** Furthermore, "each page of the facsimile

message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of '.TIFF', '.PPM', '.GIF' or '.HTML' according to the format of the particular file"; **col. 12, lines 40 - 44];**

a document storage and retrieval system coupled to said fax receiving module and configured to store each of said pages of said plurality of facsimile documents such that each of said pages is individually retrievable

[As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each page of the facsimile message.

BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 – 36**. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43];**

and a document attribute manager unit coupled to said document storage and retrieval system and configured to associate a unique set of attributes to each of said pages in each of said facsimile documents

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG. 17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

BOBO further cites other "attributes", as shown in **Fig. 17**, as "document type", "date", "time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document number", and "other fields" **309.**

BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 - 24].**

Regarding claim 9, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 8 further comprising

a categorization module coupled to said fax receiving module and configured to determine the identity of each of said entities along with their department and member identification

[As previously noted in regards to the “other fields” 309 shown in **Fig. 17**, BOBO teaches that the “other fields” can be used to customize the MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System). “For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for engineering, and one for legal”; **col. 24, lines 20 – 24**.

With regards to **Fig. 17**, BOBO also teaches that the “data field” 300 may “comprise field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message” and that “the person may be identified in numerous ways, such as by a portion of the person’s name or by a unique number”; **col. 23, lines 45 – 49**.

Therefore, BOBO teaches that both department and individual member identification may be included as routing information for a message].

Regarding claim 10, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 9 wherein

said identification is based on destination address of each fax document

[An MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System) is shown in **Fig. 13**. BOBO teaches that the MSDS associates a fax telephone number and e-mail address for each "user".

With reference to **Fig. 1**, "with each call on the DID trunk 15, an address signal indicating the telephone number being called is provided to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 18 – 20**.

With reference to **Fig. 2**, "a telephone call directed to a number serviced by the MSDS 10 is initiated at step 40 by a third party, for instance, through the facsimile machine 24"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 56**. "At step 42, the address signal associated with the initiated call is routed through the central office 20, over the DID trunk 15, and to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 59 -61**. "The intended recipient of the message uses the services provided by the MSDS 10 and will hereinafter be referred to as a user"; **col. 8, lines 5 – 7**.

Therefore, BOBO teaches that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a "user" (i.e., an "entity")].

Regarding claim 11, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 10 wherein

said categorization module employs the sender's fax number to assign further categorization parameters to the incoming fax

[As shown in **Fig. 17**, BOBO teaches that an incoming fax may be categorized by the "caller's telephone number" **305; col. 23, lines 54 - 55**].

Regarding claim 14, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 8 further comprising

a document presentation manager configured to retrieve documents based on destination fax number of a received fax

[BOBO teaches that the MSDS provides a "document presentation" means as shown in **Fig. 7**. This figure shows a sample display of the first page of a facsimile message or document. The corresponding HTML code which references the ".GIF" image file (of the first page) is cited on **col. 13, lines 24 – 60**.

Fig. 7 illustrates a full-page image of a page of a facsimile document which was sent to a "user" of the MSDS. The MSDS associates a "destination fax number" for each user].

Regarding claim 15, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 14 wherein said document presentation manager further comprises

a document display module configured to display each page of a received fax document, such that each page is manageable independently from other pages of the same fax document

[BOBO teaches a document display as shown in **Fig. 7**. Each page is “independently manageable” since in this “fifth option” display mode (**col. 13, lines 12 - 21**), each page is displayed separately. BOBO teaches a way to “navigate” to the “next page” by providing a “link”; **col. 13, lines 19 - 20**].

Regarding claim 16, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 8 further comprising

a fax routing module coupled to said fax receiving module, said fax routing module includes a fax number procurement module configured to provide at least one unique fax number for each of said entities

[An MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System) is shown in **Fig. 13**. BOBO teaches that the MSDS associates a fax telephone number and e-mail address for each “user”.

With reference to **Fig. 1**, “with each call on the DID trunk 15, an address signal indicating the telephone number being called is provided to the MSDS 10”; **col. 7, lines 18 – 20**.

With reference to **Fig. 2**, “a telephone call directed to a number serviced by the MSDS 10 is initiated at step 40 by a third party, for instance, through the facsimile machine 24”; **col. 7, lines 53 – 56**. “At step 42, the address signal associated with the initiated call is routed through the central office 20, over the DID trunk 15, and to the MSDS 10”; **col. 7, lines 59 -61**. “The intended recipient of the message uses the services provided by the MSDS 10 and will hereinafter be referred to as a user”; **col. 8, lines 5 – 7**.

Therefore, BOBO teaches that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a “user” (i.e., an “entity”)].

Regarding claim 17, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 16, wherein said fax routing module further comprises

a fax number association module configured to associate a generated fax number with a department or an individual within said entity

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an “entity”) may be a particular user or a group of users, and cites, “According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users”; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12**.

With respect to **Fig. 17** and the “other fields” **309** of a “data entry” **300**, BOBO later teaches that the “other fields 309 may also be used by a user to customize

the MSDS 10 according to his or her own desires. For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed"; **col. 24, lines 18 – 22**. BOBO gives examples of individual departments as "marketing", "sales", "engineering" and "legal"].

As for claim 18, BOBO teaches a method for receiving a plurality of fax documents from a plurality of remote fax machines, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining an image of each received fax document

[**Fig. 13** "central processor" 3; "The central processor 3 receives the calls on the DID trunks 15 and stores the messages in storage 11 in accordance with software 7"; **col. 16, lines 57 - 59**];

splitting image of each page of a received fax document into a separately identifiable image portion so that an image of each page in a fax document is separately and independently identifiable

[With regards to **Fig. 2**, BOBO teaches "when a facsimile message is received, the MSDS 10, at step 54, will update the total listing of all messages to indicate the newly received message and may additionally generate HTML files for the newly received facsimile message according to the user's preferences. When the user later requests information on the message at step 76, the HTML information has already been generated and the MSDS 10 may directly send the requested information to the user at step 80"; **col. 9, lines 36 – 44**.

BOBO later refers to this mode of operation as a “synchronous mode of communication” (**col. 19, lines 18 – 28**) and cites, “When a request for information is then later received by the HTTPD 37, the information has already been generated and the HTTPD 37 only needs to retrieve the information from storage 11 and transmit the information to the user’s computer 32”; **col. 19, lines 22 – 27.**

A “fax page splitting” process is shown in **Fig. 6** in which a facsimile message is converted into HTML files. “With reference to FIG. 6, when the facsimile message is received, the message is in a Tagged Image File Format/Facsimile (TIFF/F) and each page of the facsimile message is split into a separate file. Each page of the facsimile message is then converted from the TIFF/F format into a Portable Pixel Map (PPM) format. The PPM files are next converted into separate Graphic Interchange Format (GIF) files and then into separate HTML files. Thus, each page of the facsimile message is converted into a separate HTML file”; **col. 12, lines 9 – 18.** Furthermore, “each page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of ‘.TIFF’, ‘.PPM’, ‘.GIF’ or ‘.HTML’ according to the format of the particular file”; **col. 12, lines 40 - 44];**

and a document storage and retrieval system coupled to said fax receiving module and configured to store each of said pages of said plurality of facsimile documents such that each of said pages is individually retrievable

[As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each page of the facsimile message.

BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 – 36**. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43**];

displaying to a user said images of each page of a received fax document

[As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each page of the facsimile message.

BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 – 36**. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the

message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43**];

providing an interface for said user so as to allow said user to assign a unique set of attributes to said fax document

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG. 17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

BOBO further cites other "attributes", as shown in **Fig. 17**, as "document type", "date", "time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document number", and "other fields" **309.**

BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a

company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for engineering, and one for legal”; **col. 24, lines 20 - 24**];

allowing said user to search said fax documents in accordance to at least one attribute within said unique set of attributes

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG. 17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message”; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

BOBO further cites other “attributes”, as shown in **Fig. 17**, as “document type”, “date”, “time”, “caller’s telephone number”, “file size”, “number of pages”, “document number”, and “other fields” **309**].

Regarding claim 19, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 18 further comprising

the step of receiving a second fax document relating to a previously defined unique set of attributes

[With respect to a "first fax document" (i.e., document #11) as shown in **Fig. 21**, BOBO illustrates the reception of a second and a third fax document. Each document is shown listed with an attribute of the recipient's names (i.e., "Jane Doe")];

and providing an interface to allow a user to assign said previously defined set of attributes to said second fax document

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG. 17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

BOBO further cites other “attributes”, as shown in **Fig. 17**, as “document type”, “date”, “time”, “caller’s telephone number”, “file size”, “number of pages”, “document number”, and “other fields” **309**.

BOBO teaches that the “other fields” can be used to customize the MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System). “For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for engineering, and one for legal”; **col. 24, lines 20 – 24**.

The ability to customize the MSDS for a user’s needs exemplifies an interface allowing a user to assign previously defined attributes to a second fax document],

such that images of pages of each of said fax documents are accessible to said user

[BOBO further teaches that “after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10”; **col. 8, lines 35 – 36**. “The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier”; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43**].

Regarding claim 20, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 19 further comprising

the step of providing an edit interface to allow a user to either remove or delete anyone of said images of a page within a received fax document

[BOBO teaches, "the user may be provided with a greater or fewer number of options in displaying and retrieving messages. The options are not limited to the exact forms provided but may permit the user to review or retrieve the message in other formats. The options may also permit a user to join two messages into a single message, to delete portions of a message ..."; col. 20, lines 24 - 30].

Regarding claim 21, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 19 further comprising

the step of assigning a unique fax number for a corresponding entity, such that a plurality of entities can receive a plurality of fax documents

[An MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System) is shown in Fig. 13. BOBO teaches that the MSDS associates a fax telephone number and e-mail address for each "user".

With reference to Fig. 1, "with each call on the DID trunk 15, an address signal indicating the telephone number being called is provided to the MSDS 10"; col. 7, lines 18 – 20.

With reference to **Fig. 2**, “a telephone call directed to a number serviced by the MSDS 10 is initiated at step 40 by a third party, for instance, through the facsimile machine 24”; **col. 7, lines 53 – 56**. “At step 42, the address signal associated with the initiated call is routed through the central office 20, over the DID trunk 15, and to the MSDS 10”; **col. 7, lines 59 -61**. “The intended recipient of the message uses the services provided by the MSDS 10 and will hereinafter be referred to as a user”; **col. 8, lines 5 – 7**.

Therefore, BOBO teaches that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a “user” (i.e., an “entity”)];

and providing an interface to each of said entities such that each entity can have access to fax documents sent to its corresponding unique fax number

[BOBO teaches that the MSDS provides a “document presentation” means as shown in **Fig. 7**. This figure shows a sample display of the first page of a facsimile message or document. The corresponding HTML code which references the “.GIF” image file (of the first page) is cited on **col. 13, lines 24 - 60**].

Regarding claim 22, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 21 further comprising

the step of assigning a unique fax number to a corresponding department

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a group of users, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

With respect to **Fig. 17** and the "other fields" **309** of a "data entry" **300**, BOBO later teaches that the "other fields 309 may also be used by a user to customize the MSDS 10 according to his or her own desires. For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed"; **col. 24, lines 18 – 22.** BOBO gives examples of individual departments as "marketing", "sales", "engineering" and "legal"]

and a corresponding member within said department for each of said entities

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a group of users, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12].**

Regarding claim 23, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 22 further comprising

the step of storing each of said received fax documents in a storage unit such that each image of each page of a received fax document is independently retrievable

[As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each page of the facsimile message.

BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 – 36**. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43**].

Regarding claim 24, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising

the step of providing an interface to allow a user to search for said images of each page of received fax documents in accordance with an attribute within said unique attribute set

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in **FIG. 17**. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are

stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

BOBO further cites other "attributes", as shown in **Fig. 17**, as "document type", "date", "time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document number", and "other fields" **309]**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

16. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **BOBO [US Patent 5,870,549]**.

Regarding claim 12, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 11 wherein

said categorization module generates a serial number used to visually differentiate each received fax in a user interface based on date and time of receipt

[As shown in **Fig. 17**, BOBO teaches "a document number for uniquely identifying the message is indicated in field 308"; **col. 23, lines 58 – 59**. Further, "the files and messages ... may be numbered or identified ... as by a combination of numbers with an identifier for the date when the message was received. Also, the documents number or identifier may be unique for each file or message directed to a user or, alternatively, may be unique for each file or message directed to a plurality of users"; **col. 23, line 62 – col. 24, line 1**.

Therefore, BOBO teaches that fax documents are categorized by a "document number" (or "serial number") which may be based on the date when the message was received.

Fig. 21 illustrates the results of a search query as presented as a "user interface" listing three facsimile documents by "document number".

However, BOBO does not specifically teach a "serial number" based on both "date and time of receipt".

BOBO does teach categorizing a message by both "date" and "time" as these are shown in **Fig. 17** as **303** and **304**, respectively.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to generate a serial number (i.e., "document number") based on both "date" and "time" to more clearly differentiate incoming messages, especially, if many messages were received on the same date.].

Regarding claim 13, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 12 wherein

said categorization module generates a sequence number for each individual fax page, which is used to uniquely identify each fax page in the system

[BOBO teaches that a page of a facsimile message may be accessed by a combination of a "message identifier" and a "page identifier" which would correspond to a unique sequence number, and cites, "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the message identifier, display preferences, and if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier"; col. 8, lines 39 - 42].

17. Claims 25 - 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **BOBO [US Patent 5,870,549]** in view of **JOHNSON [US Patent 5,664,109]**.

As for claim 25, BOBO teaches a method for receiving a plurality of fax documents from a plurality of remote fax devices in a hospital environment, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of fax documents from a plurality of remote fax machines and ~~from a pre-admission testing department within said hospital, each fax document relating to a corresponding patient scheduled for an in-hospital procedure;~~

[Fig. 13 “central processor” 3; “The central processor 3 receives the calls on the DID trunks 15 and stores the messages in storage 11 in accordance with software 7”; col. 16, lines 57 - 59],

**obtaining an image of each received fax document;
splitting image of each page of a received fax document into a separately identifiable image portion so that an image of each page in a fax document is separately and independently identifiable**

[With regards to Fig. 2, BOBO teaches “when a facsimile message is received, the MSDS 10, at step 54, will update the total listing of all messages to indicate the newly received message and may additionally generate HTML files for the newly received facsimile message according to the user’s preferences. When the user later requests information on the message at step 76, the HTML information has already been generated and the MSDS 10 may directly send the requested information to the user at step 80”; col. 9, lines 36 – 44.

BOBO later refers to this mode of operation as a “synchronous mode of communication” (col. 19, lines 18 – 28) and cites, “When a request for information is then later received by the HTTPD 37, the information has already been generated and the HTTPD 37 only needs to retrieve the information from storage 11 and transmit the information to the user’s computer 32”; col. 19, lines 22 – 27.

A "fax page splitting" process is shown in **Fig. 6** in which a facsimile message is converted into HTML files. "With reference to FIG. 6, when the facsimile message is received, the message is in a Tagged Image File Format/Facsimile (TIFF/F) and each page of the facsimile message is split into a separate file. Each page of the facsimile message is then converted from the TIFF/F format into a Portable Pixel Map (PPM) format. The PPM files are next converted into separate Graphic Interchange Format (GIF) files and then into separate HTML files. Thus, each page of the facsimile message is converted into a separate HTML file"; **col. 12, lines 9 – 18**. Furthermore, "each page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of '.TIFF', '.PPM', '.GIF' or '.HTML' according to the format of the particular file"; **col. 12, lines 40 - 44**];

displaying to at least one user said images of each page of a received fax document

[BOBO teaches a document display as shown in **Fig. 7**. Each page is "independently manageable" since in this "fifth option" display mode (**col. 13, lines 12 - 21**), each page is displayed separately. BOBO teaches a way to "navigate" to the "next page" by providing a "link"; **col. 13, lines 19 - 20**];

providing an interface for said user so as to allow said user to assign a unique set of attributes to said fax document, ~~said unique set of attributes relating to a patient information~~

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG.

17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

BOBO further cites other "attributes", as shown in **Fig. 17**, as "document type", "date", "time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document number", and "other fields" **309**.

BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division

at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for engineering, and one for legal”; **col. 24, lines 20 - 24**];

allowing said user to search said fax documents in accordance to at least one attribute within said unique set of attributes

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG.

17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message”; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

BOBO further cites other “attributes”, as shown in **Fig. 17**, as “document type”, “date”, “time”, “caller’s telephone number”, “file size”, “number of pages”, “document number”, and “other fields” **309**].

However, BOBO does not specifically teach

receiving a plurality of fax documents from a pre-admission testing department within said hospital, each fax document relating to a corresponding patient scheduled for an in-hospital procedure;

and said unique set of attributes relating to a patient information

JOHNSON teaches a "central medical record repository for a managed health care organization" (**abstract**) and cites, "The data repository engine 200 receives hardcopy or softcopy reports from medical service providers. Hardcopies of medical reports are sent by mail or transmitted by facsimile"; **col. 6, lines 44 – 47.**

As noted previously, BOBO teaches that "the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teachings of JOHNSON with those of BOBO so that a "pre-admission testing department within a hospital" could send patient information (with "patient attributes", like, the patient's name) by means of a facsimile document to the MSDS file repository.

Regarding claim 26, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 25 further comprising

the step of receiving additional fax document relating to a previously defined unique set of attributes

[With respect to a “first fax document” (i.e., document #11) as shown in **Fig. 21**, BOBO illustrates the reception of a second and a third fax document. Each document is shown listed with an attribute of the recipient’s names (i.e., “Jane Doe”)];

and providing an interface to allow said user to assign said previously defined set of attributes to said ~~second fax document~~ additional fax document

[“An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG. 17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message”; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

BOBO further cites other “attributes”, as shown in **Fig. 17**, as “document type”, “date”, “time”, “caller’s telephone number”, “file size”, “number of pages”, “document number”, and “other fields” **309**.

BOBO teaches that the “other fields” can be used to customize the MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System). “For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for engineering, and one for legal”; **col. 24, lines 20 – 24**.

The ability to customize the MSDS for a user’s needs exemplifies an interface allowing a user to assign previously defined attributes to an additional fax document],

such that images of pages of each of said fax documents are accessible to said user

[BOBO further teaches that “after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10”; **col. 8, lines 35 – 36**. “The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier”; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43**].

Regarding claim 27, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 26 further comprising

the step of providing an edit interface to allow a user to either remove or delete anyone of said images of a page within a received fax document

[BOBO teaches, "the user may be provided with a greater or fewer number of options in displaying and retrieving messages. The options are not limited to the exact forms provided but may permit the user to review or retrieve the message in other formats. The options may also permit a user to join two messages into a single message, to delete portions of a message ..."; col. 20, lines 24 - 30].

Regarding claim 28, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 26 further comprising

the step of assigning a unique fax number for a corresponding hospital entity, such that a plurality of hospitals entities can receive a plurality of fax documents

[An MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System) is shown in Fig. 13. BOBO teaches that the MSDS associates a fax telephone number and e-mail address for each "user".

With reference to Fig. 1, "with each call on the DID trunk 15, an address signal indicating the telephone number being called is provided to the MSDS 10"; col. 7, lines 18 – 20.

With reference to **Fig. 2**, "a telephone call directed to a number serviced by the MSDS 10 is initiated at step 40 by a third party, for instance, through the facsimile machine 24"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 56**. "At step 42, the address signal associated with the initiated call is routed through the central office 20, over the DID trunk 15, and to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 59 -61**. "The intended recipient of the message uses the services provided by the MSDS 10 and will hereinafter be referred to as a user"; **col. 8, lines 5 – 7**.

Therefore, BOBO teaches that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a "user" (i.e., an "entity");

and providing an interface to each of said hospitals entities such that each entity can have access to fax documents sent to its corresponding unique fax number

[BOBO teaches that the MSDS provides a "document presentation" means as shown in **Fig. 7**. This figure shows a sample display of the first page of a facsimile message or document. The corresponding HTML code which references the ".GIF" image file (of the first page) is cited on **col. 13, lines 24 - 60**].

BOBO does not specifically teach the entity as a hospital. However, as noted for claim 25, JOHNSON teaches that an *entity* such as a *hospital* can send facsimile documents of medical records to a central document repository. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of JOHNSON with those of BOBO and assign unique fax numbers to “MSDS member” hospitals so that patient records (i.e., fax documents) could be sent and shared among medical providers.

Regarding claim 29, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 28 further comprising

the step of assigning a unique fax number to a corresponding department

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an “entity”) may be a particular user or a group of users, and cites, “According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users”; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

With respect to **Fig. 17** and the “other fields” **309** of a “data entry” **300**, BOBO later teaches that the “other fields 309 may also be used by a user to customize the MSDS 10 according to his or her own desires. For instance, if the user is a company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed”; **col. 24, lines 18 – 22.** BOBO gives examples of individual departments as “marketing”, “sales”, “engineering” and “legal”]

and a corresponding member within said department for each of said hospitals

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a group of users, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12**].

Regarding claim 30, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 29 further comprising

the step of storing each of said received fax documents in a storage unit such that each image of each page of a received fax document is independently retrievable

[As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each page of the facsimile message.

BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 – 36**. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43**].

Regarding claim 31, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 30,
further comprising

**the step of providing an interface to allow a user to search for said images
of each page of received fax documents in accordance with an attribute
within said unique attribute set**

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG. 17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

BOBO further cites other "attributes", as shown in **Fig. 17**, as "document type", "date", "time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document number", and "other fields" **309**].

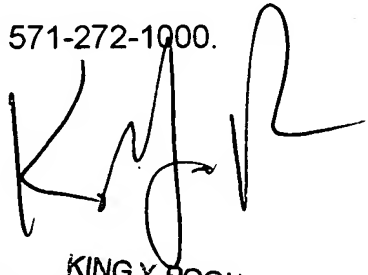
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter L. Cheng whose telephone number is 571-270-3007. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Y. Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

plc
December 13, 2007


KING Y. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER